

Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water And Sewer Authority Special Called Meeting Minutes

August 24th, 2022 at 5:00 pm
Kenneth Johnson Depot
5061 Union Street,
Union City, GA 30291

- I. Chairman Mayor J. Clark Boddie called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
- II. Roll Call was taken by Secretary Jessica Davis with the following board members present:

The Honorable Chairman Mayor J. Clark Boddie
The Honorable Mayor Vince Williams The Honorable Vice-Chair Sonja Fillingame
The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery The Honorable City Manager Tony Phillips

The following board members were absent during roll call:
The Honorable Councilman Brian Jones (arrived at 5:06 pm) and The Honorable Councilwoman Tara Miller

The attendance of the board constituted a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

III. Discussion- ARPA Grant for Drinking Water Projects to Support Increased Population


- Project Manager Gray began the presentation by informing the board members that the second round of the ARPA Grant for the Drinking Water Supply, was announced on August 15th. The application deadline is September 9th, 2022. The amount of available funds is 400 million dollars. There are enough funds to apply for the project. The Project Managers reviewed the application requirements. They were able to repurpose last year's application. In addition, they're able to supplement it with another item to be added to the application packet, including a more detailed budget and a cost-effectiveness analysis. A member city must apply on behalf of the water authority. The last grant application was for 25 million dollars. The authority did not receive an award. A list of information needed from the city is in the handout. Upon receipt of the grant, there will be administrative responsibilities for the city applying for the grant. The working group met before this meeting and will provide suggestions.
- Chairman Boddie informed the body that he looked at the situations within the three cities and had conversations regarding the administrations. He would like Union City to apply on behalf of the authority.
- Vice-Chair Fillingame stated that the grant opportunity before us is an option, and the authority cannot apply for the grant on its own.
- Mayor Williams addressed his concerns regarding the amount of lifting on union city staff to be able to carry out the process. He asked the project managers what they can do to assist with the project. He assured the board that Union City is in support of the grant, but there are a lot of bells and whistles and lifting to go with it. Mayor Williams appreciates the project managers for bringing the project to their attention. The board is aware that it's a great deal of funding opportunity as it relates to infrastructure and water projects. Mayor Williams further asked if the authority has any

meaningful relationships to assist with the project. Chairman Boddie stated that there is additional information the authority will have to submit with the application. The authority will need a lobbyist to assist with the application.

- City Manager Phillips asked “what are we going to do substantially different than the previous application to give this application a better prospect?”
- Ms. Rebecca Lindsay informed City Manager Phillips that there are two major options the authority can choose from:
 1. Project Managers Laura Benz and Andrea Gray could put together the funding application and hire Tim Fleming to lobby on the authority’s behalf.
 2. Ms. Lindsay’s option is to hire Russ Pennington to put together the entire funding application and lobby on behalf of the authority.
- Ms. Lindsay further stated that Russ Pennington has a great relationship with the Governor’s office, OPD, GEFA, and EPD, and requires a fee of \$30,000 for putting together the application. The overall price includes engineering support.
- Project Manager Gray has known Tim Fleming for over 20 years. He was the Governor’s Chief of Staff, the Deputy Secretary of State, and carried the Governor’s campaign. Mr. Fleming left to pursue his lobbying firm and partnered with Chuck Harper, who is the former deputy chief on the Governor’s staff. Project Manager Gray has worked with Russ Pennington. She did not have a good working experience with him.
- Project Manager Benz stated that the boards will not review the application. The applicant has 30 days to complete the application, and the Governor will make the selection. It requires additional documentation such as a more in-depth budget, cost-effective analysis, an assessment, and vendor requirements.
- Mayor Avery inquired about Tim Fleming’s retainer, and Project Manager Gray informed him that it’s a monthly retainer, an all-inclusive 6-month contract for \$5,000 a month.
- Mayor Williams stated that he is familiar with Russ Pennington and aware of his background and successes.
- Mayor Williams made a motion to hire Russ Pennington, and the second was made by City Manager Phillips **Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried**
- Councilman Jones asked if Russ Pennington will do all the work as stated, including the heavy-lifting issues. Project Manager Benz stated yes, and the \$30,000 includes Ms. Lindsay’s team assisting him.
- Attorney Dennis Davenport inquired about the requested award amount. He asked if the verbiage should read, “We’re bringing on Russ Pennington and want him to advise the board as to how much we want to apply for.”

- Chairman Boddie stated that everyone is aware that this award is all or nothing, they're applying for the leftovers from the 2nd round, and 25 million is the landing amount. The amount should be based on Pennington's discretion.
- Mayor Avery inquired about the time frame to spend the funds. Project Manager Benz stated that the funds must be spent before the end of 2026.

IV. The motion to adjourn the Special Called meeting at 5:23 pm was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Chair Fillingame. **Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried**



Mayor J. Clark Boddie, Chair



Jessica Davis, Secretary